17. (New) The method according to claim 2 further comprising applying the solid lubricant to the wax pattern by applying a suspension comprising the solid lubricant, an organic binder and an organic solvent, followed by drying.

18. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein said suspension comprises from 0.1 to 30% by weight of the solid lubricant, from 0.1 to 20% by weight of the organic binder and the remainder of the organic solvent.

19. (New) The method according to claim 17 wherein said suspension comprises from 0.1 to 30% by weight of the solid lubricant, from 0.1 to 20% by weight of the organic binder and the remainder of the organic solvent.

20. (New) The preparation method according to claim 1 wherein the ceramic material put into the mold has a viscosity of from 10^2 to 10^9 poises.

21. (New) The preparation method according to claim 19 wherein the ceramic material put into the mold has a viscosity of from 10^2 to 10^9 poises.

22. (New) The preparation method according to claim 1 wherein the ceramic material is a crystalline $MgO-CaO-SiO_2$ glass material.

23. (New) The preparation method according to claim 20 wherein the ceramic material is a crystalline $MgO-CaO-SiO_2$ glass material.

24. (New) The preparation method according to claim 21 wherein the ceramic material is a crystalline $MgO-CaO-SiO_2$ glass material.

25. (New) The preparation method according to claim 1 further comprising providing the pole member of the crucible former with a diameter which widens downward and is tapered at 0.005 to 0.120.

26. (New) The preparation method according to claim 24 further comprising providing the pole member of the crucible former with a diameter which widens downward and is tapered at

0.005 to 0.120

27. (New) The preparation method according to claim 1 further comprising providing said plunger made of a ceramic material having a melting point or decomposition temperature, whichever is lower, which is higher than a temperature of forming the ceramic artificial crown and having a thermal conductivity of not smaller than 0.1($cal \cdot cm^{-1} \cdot sec^{-1} \cdot °C^{-1}$) or a coefficient of linear expansion of not larger than $4.0 \times 10^{-6}(°C^{-1})$.

28. (New) The preparation method according to claim 26 further comprising providing said plunger made of a ceramic material having a melting point or decomposition temperature, whichever is lower, which is higher than a temperature of forming the ceramic artificial crown and having a thermal conductivity of not smaller than 0.1($cal \cdot cm^{-1} \cdot sec^{-1} \cdot °C^{-1}$) or a coefficient of linear expansion of not larger than $4.0 \times 10^{-6}(°C^{-1})$.

29. (New) The preparation method according to claim 1 further comprising adhering a solid lubricant in advance onto the surface of the plunger that comes into contact with the ceramic material.

30. (New) The preparation method according to claim 28 further comprising adhering a solid lubricant in advance onto the surface of the plunger that comes into contact with the ceramic material.

31. (New) The preparation method according to claim 1 further comprising applying a dental porcelain onto the surface of the ceramic core, followed by baking, wherein the dental porcelain applied is a kneaded product obtained by kneading with water a body porcelain, an incisal porcelain or a translucent porcelain which comprises:

100 parts by weight of a glass material containing, on the basis of the oxides, 57 to 65% by weight of SiO_2, 8 to 18% by weight of Al_2O_3, 15 to 25% by weight of B_2O_3, 0.1 to 2% by weight of ZnO, 3 to 7% by weight of Na_2O and 2 to 8% by weight of Li_2O; and

0.1 to 10 parts by weight of an inorganic crystalline powder having a refractive index which is different from the refractive index of the glass material by 0.01 to 0.1, and having an average particle diameter of from 0.1 to 10 μm.

32. (New) The preparation method according to claim 30 further comprising applying a dental porcelain onto the surface of the ceramic core, followed by baking, wherein the dental porcelain applied is a kneaded product obtained by kneading with water a body porcelain, an incisal porcelain or a translucent porcelain which comprises:

100 parts by weight of a glass material containing, on the basis of the oxides, 57 to 65% by weight of SiO_2, 8 to 18% by weight of Al_2O_3, 15 to 25% by weight of B_2O_3, 0.1 to 2% by weight of ZnO, 3 to 7% by weight of Na_2O and 2 to 8% by weight of Li_2O; and

0.1 to 10 parts by weight of an inorganic crystalline powder having a refractive index which is different from the refractive index of the glass material by 0.01 to 0.1, and having an average particle diameter of from 0.1 to 10 μm.

33. (New) The preparation method according to claim 1 further comprising coloring and lustering the surface of said crown by applying a kneaded product to the surface of the fired article, followed by firing, wherein the kneaded product is obtained by kneading a staining powder and a glazing powder, each comprising, as a chief sintering component, a glass material containing, on the basis of oxides, 57 to 65% by weight of SiO_2, 8 to 18% by weight of Al_2O_3, 15 to 25% by weight of B_2O_3, 0.1 to 2% by weight of ZnO, 3 to 7% by weight of Na_2O and 2 to 8% by weight of Li_2O with a kneading solution containing not less than 5% by weight of an ester compound having a boiling point of from 100 to 250°C.

34. (New) The preparation method according to claim 32 further comprising coloring and lustering the surface of said crown by applying a kneaded product to the surface of the fired

article, followed by firing, wherein the kneaded product is obtained by kneading a staining powder and a glazing powder, each comprising, as a chief sintering component, a glass material containing, on the basis of oxides, 57 to 65% by weight of SiO_2, 8 to 18% by weight of Al_2O_3, 15 to 25% by weight of B_2O_3, 0.1 to 2% by weight of ZnO, 3 to 7% by weight of Na_2O and 2 to 8% by weight of Li_2O with a kneading solution containing not less than 5% by weight of an ester compound having a boiling point of from 100 to 250°C

35. (New) The preparation method according to claim 31 further comprising coloring and lustering the surface of said crown by applying a kneaded product to the surface of the fired article, followed by firing, wherein the kneaded product is obtained by kneading a staining powder and a glazing powder, each comprising, as a chief sintering component, a glass material containing, on the basis of oxides, 57 to 65% by weight of SiO_2, 8 to 18% by weight of Al_2O_3, 15 to 25% by weight of B_2O_3, 0.1 to 2% by weight of ZnO, 3 to 7% by weight of Na_2O and 2 to 8% by weight of Li_2O with a kneading solution containing not less than 5% by weight of an ester compound having a boiling point of from 100 to 250°C.--

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Claims 3-11 have been cancelled and new claims 16-35 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 12-15 and 16-35 are pending in this application.